

Whereas, many persons, at and below the White-Plains, in the county of West-Chester, by reason of the ravages of the enemy are greatly distressed for want of provision to support their families

WHEREAS, many persons, at and below the White-Plains, in the county of West-Chester, by reason of the ravages of the Enemy, are greatly distressed for want of provision to support their families. **AND WHEREAS**, humanity directs, that the necessary means of life should be permitted to be purchased, by persons in those circumstances, who are not avowed enemies to America, but from the natural and just jealousy of the times, are prevented from obtaining leave to carry such necessary provision to their families, unless proper persons be appointed to give passes for such articles, to be carried below our lines. Now, therefore, **I DO HEREBY AUTHORIZE**, John Thomas, Sheriff of West-Chester county; Col. James Hammon, Major Jonathan Paulding Horton, Joseph Young, Solomon Sherwood, Thomas Deane, James Requaw, Esquires, and William Millar, late Deputy Chairman of the county of West-Chester; Messrs. Isaac Oakley, Benjamin Lyon, and Judge Bloomer, or any three of them, to give a Permission to any person or persons, for the humane purposes aforesaid, to carry or drive to their respective dwellings, the necessary provision for their families; provided, That none who shall have this permit are within the Enemy's works, or are known and avowed enemies to America; and provided also, That it contains the quantity and quality of the provision intended to pass our lines. And also, That permission be not granted to any one person, but for small quantities, at one time. And all guards, scouts and patrols of the American troops, or persons in arms in her favour, are hereby ordered and directed, to pay due regard to the permits which shall be granted by the persons aforesaid, but to no others.

AND I DO HEREBY REQUEST the above named persons, to meet once every month, at some convenient place, and compare the permissions granted by them, and sent their names, as soon as convenient, written by each of them respectively, on one piece of paper, to every commanding officer of the guards on our lines, to the end, that no frauds be committed by evil-disposed persons. Given at Head-Quarters, Peek-Kill, December 22, 1778. **ALEXANDER M'DOUGALL**, Major-General.

PREVIOUS to any permit being granted to any person, below our lines, agreeable to my orders of the twenty-second day of this instant, the person or persons applying for such permit, shall take the following oath, before a Justice of the Peace, under the present Constitution, for the county of West-Chester, viz. I A.B. do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, (or, being of the people called Quakers, shall affirm) that the article or articles mentioned in the permit or certificate, given to me by are intended for the use of my family; and that I have no agreement or contract whatsoever, with any person or persons, to dispose of the whole or any part thereof; and that I will not dispose of the same, nor any person by my authority or connivance, to any person or persons, under any pretext whatsoever. So help me God. Sworn before me, this Day of 1779.

FORM OF THE PERMIT.

PERMIT the under-written articles of Provision to pass all guards to agreeable to the power and authority given to us, by the orders of Major-General M'Dougall, of the 22d day of December last, viz.

[Immediately after the above, the articles permitted to pass the guard, must be inserted at large, and not in figures, and in the same hand, otherwise they must not pass. The signers will subscribe close up to the several articles, and the permit must be delivered up to the persons who gave it, upon a second application. The route must be on the public road, and carried or drove only from sun-rise to sun-set. The permit will be void and of no effect three days after its date.] Witness our hands, this day of 1779. To all officers of

Library of Congress

guards, scouts and) patrols, of the American troops.) Given at Head-Quarters, Peek-Kill, December 24, 1778. **ALEXANDER M'DOUGALL**, Major-General.

THE scandalous and wicked practice of seizing the property of the good inhabitants of this State, near our lines, already too much distressed, under the pretence of military prize and appropriating it to the use of those who commit such lawless practices; and the expediency of giving suitable encouragement to those, who are under orders of military discipline, to prevent the cattle, horses, hogs, calves, sheep, &c. of the country, from being carried away by thieves and robbers to the Enemy, render it necessary, that some rule should be established to prevent the one, and promote the other.

Therefore, **I DO HEREBY ORDER**, That one fourth part of the value of any horse, ox, cow, heifer, sheep, hog, calf or lamb, belonging to the well-affected subjects of this State, or Connecticut, which shall be taken two miles from their respective residence, from any person or persons known to be enemies, or under the enemy's protection, or who shall be unfriendly to the country, to be paid to the party, who shall take the same as a salvage. But the party must prove before two Justices of the Peace, of West-Chester county, that those creatures were taken two miles from the farm of the owner or owners, with their heads driving towards the Enemy: Upon paying the salvage aforesaid, to the commanding officer of the party for their use, each and every creature, shall be delivered to their proprietors: Provided each of them shall declare on oath, before two of the said Justices of the Peace, that the horses, cattle, sheep, lambs, or hogs, which may be in question, were not sold by him or them, or delivered to such disaffected person or persons,, and that the property was, and is, in him or them, at the time of the capture; and that there is no agreement, directly or indirectly, with the drivers, or any other person, to make sale of them, or any of them, to any person or persons disaffected, or within the Enemy's lines: But if it shall appear otherwise, the Justices of the Peace will please to give a certificate, of the tenor hereafter mentioned, to the party, which will authorize them to make sale of the horses,

Library of Congress

cattle, &c. taken as aforesaid, in ten days, if the proper owner or owners do not appear, and qualify as aforesaid.

But all wheat, or any other grain or flour, or any kind of provision whatsoever, which shall be found moving to or carting towards the Enemy after sun-set, in any part of West-Chester, south or south-west of a line, beginning from Sing-Sing church to Mr. Benjamin Clapp's, thence to Biram-River, and from that to the Sound, in the possession or care of any disaffected person, shall be deemed prize to the party who shall seize the same. Also, all good riding and draught horses, fat oxen, swine, and sheep, which shall be taken from any of the disaffected, within the Enemy's lines, or from Mile-Square, south-east, south, southwest, and west, inclusive: But proof must be made before two Justices of the Peace, of the capture, and character of the proprietor of such horses, fat cattle, sheep, &c. and a certificate obtained as aforesaid; but the sale will not be made before the expiration of five days after they are brought within our lines. Given at Head-Quarters, Peek-Kill, January 7, 1779. **ALEXANDER M'DOUGALL**, Major-General.

POSTSCRIPT.

If any question shall arise on the construction of these Orders, relative to the place or capture of any of the creatures, or things aforesaid, Lieut. Col. Burr, commanding on the lines, is the sold Judge to determine it.

FORM of the CERTIFICATE to be given by the Justices of the county of West-Chester, before the sale of any creature or thing legally captured, can be made, or appropriated, viz.

WE the under-written Justices of the Peace for the county of West-Chester, do hereby certify to all whom it may concern, that have been proved before us to be lawful military prize, to and the party under his command, at the time of the capture, agreeable to the

Library of Congress

orders of Major-General M'Dougall, bearing date the 7th day of January 1779, and that they may be disposed of, or appropriated accordingly. Witness our hands this day of 1779.

N.B. When the prizes are sold, the Certificate will be lodged with Lieut. Col. Burr, or Officer commanding on the lines from Major-General M'Dougall's division.

FISH-KILL: PRINTED BY SAMUEL LOUDON.